

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BISSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12699

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR EAID XY FR CG SG
SUBJ: FRENCH COMMENTS ON FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT

REF: (A) DAKAR 2814, (B) DAKAR 2810, (C) BANGUI 818,
(D) PARIS 11510 (NOTAL)

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1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT WITH
QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA LA ROCHERE AND ELYSEE
AFRICAN AFFAIRS ADVISER JOURNIAC (WHO
ATTENDED) AND CONCLUDE THAT THE FRENCH ARE VERY
SATISFIED WITH ITS RESULTS. POLITICALLY, THEY HOPED TO
CONSOLIDATE AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH INTERVENTION

IN ZAIRE AND TO REASSURE THE MODERATES THAT IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, FRANCE WOULD COME TO THEIR AID. ACCORDING TO BOTH SOURCES, NOT A SINGLE AFRICA, INCLUDING RADICALS SUCH AS GUINEA-BISSAU, CRITICIZED THE ZAIRE ACTION. MOREOVER, THE FRENCH INITIATIVE IN ZAIRE GAVE NEEDED SUBSTANCE AND CREDIBILITY TO GISCARD'S DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES.

2. DISCUSSION ABOUT MILITARY MATTERS, INCLUDING NON-AGGRESSION PACTS, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, AND MULTI-LATERAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS, APPARENTLY WAS LIVELY BUT INDECISIVE. ACCORDING TO JOURNIAC, THE MAXIMUM THAT MIGHT RESULT ON A MULTI-LATERAL BASIS WOULD BE AN AGREEMENT AMONG A FEW STATES (HE HINTED THAT THESE MIGHT BE THE ENTENTE COUNTRIES, MINUS BENIN) FOR COMMON DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. FOR ITS PART, FRANCE INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE AFRICANS, ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING BILATERAL MILITARY ACCORDS, OR THOSE THAT POSSIBLY MAY BE CONCLUDED IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE AFRICANS ONCE AGAIN PRESSED FRANCE HARD ON THE NEED FOR THE RAPID CONCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. THEY ALSO CALLED FOR A COMMON FUND, BUT EVIDENTLY MOST PARTICIPANTS SHOWED SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR FRANCE'S OBJECTIONS TO THE GROUP OF 77 PROPOSAL, AND RELUCTANTLY AGREED WITH THE FRENCH THESIS THAT THE NEGOTIATION OF ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. AS HE INDICATED AT DAKAR, GISCARD PROBABLY WILL RAISE THE QUESTION OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA DURING THE UPCOMING LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WHILE STILL FAVORING THE PROPOSAL AND CONSCIOUS OF ITS STRONG APPEAL TO THE AFRICANS, THE FRENCH THEMSELVES FEEL STRAPPED FOR MONEY TO CARRY IT OUT AND THAT THEY MAY BE SEEKING TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN TO OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE US. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE HAD NO HINT OF THIS IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS HERE NOR HAVE WE HEARD ANY ECHO OF THE LINE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FRENCH BY THE OCAM SECRETARY GENERAL IN REF C.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS MENTIONED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, THE SUMMIT, IT SEEMS TO US, WAS HELPFUL TO AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THAT IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP, ON THE HEELS OF FRANCE'S INTERVENTION

IN ZAIRE, IN STEMMING THE EROSION OF WESTERN INFLUENCE
IN AFRICA.
GAMMON

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